

**Communicable Disease Epidemiology
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Health Advisory and Call for Cases: Toxic Anterior Segment Syndrome After Eye Surgery—August 20, 2018

Actions requested:

- Be aware that Public Health – Seattle & King County is investigating cases of toxic anterior segment syndrome (TASS) after eye surgeries at three King County facilities.
- Report cases of TASS that have occurred in any patient receiving anterior segment surgery, such as cataract surgery, since January 1, 2018 to Public Health at 206-296-4774.
- Cases of TASS should also be reported to the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery's TASS registry at <https://tassregistry.org/questionnaire>

Background: Public Health is investigating 15 cases of TASS that have occurred in patients who had cataract surgery during January–July, 2018. All patients are improving or have recovered without complications. The Washington State Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) are assisting with the investigation. At this point in the investigation, the cause of the TASS cases has not been determined.

TASS is an acute, noninfectious inflammation of the eye that results when a foreign substance is introduced into the eye during surgery, typically cataract surgery. TASS is an uncommon complication and usually results from exposure to contaminants in medications or on surgical instruments used in the eye during eye surgery. Most cases of TASS can be treated successfully with topical steroids and anti-inflammatory treatments, but in the worst cases, TASS can lead to vision loss.

Resources:

- For more information about the Seattle & King County TASS investigation, please refer to the following blog post: <https://publichealthinsider.com/2018/08/08/investigation-of-inflammation-syndrome-following-cataract-surgeries/>.
- ASCRS TASS Guidelines: https://tassregistry.org/TASS_guidelines-CBC.pdf